

Modi & Wyman take UA top spots in landslide win

By Ana Lyons
NEWS EDITOR

Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 and Samantha "Sammi" G. Wyman '11 were elected as Undergraduate Association President and Vice President, receiving over 80 percent of votes in the spring election.

Roughly 40 percent of undergraduates — 1,686 students — voted. The results of the election, which included both electronic votes and results from paper ballots, were announced at 2 p.m. on Saturday March 20 by the UA



Election Commissioner.

"I wasn't expecting [to see] that much of a landslide," Wyman said. "I was really excited to see how many people supported us."

Modi said that the pair's door-to-door campaigning — trying to reach out to as many people as possible — contributed to their success.

Modi and Wyman, who ran under the slogan "we do things," will start serving their terms at

the beginning of next school year in September 2010.

Highlights from their platform include improving freshman advising with an optional mentoring system, creating a system for student to add and drop classes online, and improving SafeRide.

Both running mates have been involved in the UA as dorm senators in previous years. They have been involved with several high-profile UA projects such as the Star Market shuttle, the produce stand, putting a PDF version of the Add/Drop form online, and the soon-to-be installed SafeRide monitor outside the Student Center.

Modi is an East Campus resident who is double majoring in Course 2 and 15. Wyman is majoring in Course 10 and lives in Burton-Conner.

To find out more information regarding the UA Election results, including the results of class council positions, visit <http://web.mit.edu/elections/Spring10/results.shtml>.

UA Exec meetings to be held in dorms

Modi said improving communication between the UA and the larger student body will be a priority. "The UA's job is to represent all the students, with even more emphasis on outreach. We make sure that people are informed and people are incorporated into any recommendations," he said.

"The main centerpiece" of

UA Elections, Page 17

Penny Arcade comes to town

Three days of gaming, game culture, and gaming



JESSICA J. POURIAN—THE TECH

In response to a request from the audience, **Penny Arcade creators Mike Krahulik (left) and Jerry Holkins arm wrestle**. After an overly dramatic minute, Krahulik won.

By Jessica J. Pourian
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

"My gravy trainnnnnn!" exclaimed Jerry Holkins, co-creator of Penny Arcade after losing an arm-wrestling match to co-creator Mike Krahulik at a Q&A session at the Penny Arcade Exposition last weekend.

"That's my drawing arm," Krahulik complained, shaking his arm. Krahulik — known as his cartoon alter ego Gabe online — is responsible for drawing the comic while

Holkins, who is known in the strip as Tycho, writes the comic.

Over this past weekend, nearly 60,000 gamers attended PAX East, a huge video game exposition put on by the writers of the popular web comic Penny Arcade. This convention marked the first time that the Penny Arcade Exposition made it to the East Coast. It is usually held in Seattle during the late summer.

Running from March 26 until March 28 in the Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center, the convention featured plenty of new

games and demos, humorous panels, and several concerts. Game developers from all over the country, including MIT's own GAMBIT lab, had a chance to show off their games to the crowds.

Concerts on Friday and Saturday nights included the Video Game Orchestra, Metroid Metal, MC Frontalot, Paul and Storm, Jonathan Coulton, Protomen, and Anamanaguchi. During the Q&A session with the Penny Arcade cre-

PAX East, Page 12

IN SHORT

The produce market is in the Stata Center today because of rain. It will move back to the East Campus courtyard next Tuesday.

Screwed? Nominate professors for the Big Screw as part of APO's annual charity fundraiser by emailing big-screw@mit.edu. Voting will take place for the award April 15 through 19, the week of CPW.

The lottery for MIT summer housing opened March 22 and will end April 21. Visit <http://web.mit.edu/housing/undergrad/summer.html> to register.

Passover begins today and will continue for seven days until Monday, April 5.

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Prefrosh in Providence

Revisiting the prefrosh dinner, years later

By Robert McQueen
NEWS EDITOR

Last Thursday, I found myself standing in the same hotel as I had been two years prior when I was accepted to MIT. It was at the Radisson Providence Harbor Hotel in Rhode Island, where the MIT Club of Rhode Island has been hosting its prospective freshmen dinner since 2007.

Over spring break, close to 50 prefrosh dinners are hosted by MIT Alumni clubs all over the world. From Taipei, Taiwan, to Hawaii, prospective freshman, current MIT students, and MIT alumni gather to talk about MIT. For some prospective freshmen, this is their first real MIT experience.

I arrived at the Radisson at 5:30 p.m. The front desk worker directed me to a room where I found three people standing outside in the hallway. Alex Lin, a prospective freshman from Westerly, Rhode Island, introduced

himself first. Lin was accompanied by his father. Across from him was current MIT student Matthew D. Sooknah '13, also a Rhode Island native.

While waiting for more people to arrive, all four of us chatted about the available majors at MIT. "By the end of orientation," I told Alex, "you will know what all the numbers stand for." While Alex said that he did not know what course he wanted to be, he showed a great interest in energy efficiency and business.

At 6 p.m., MIT alums started to trickle into the Radisson. The total attendance came to be about 30 people, mostly alums. Only one other prefrosh, Katherine Sylvestre from Massachusetts, attended the event. She arrived straight from ballet practice.

Event organizer Kevin R. O'Neill '02 handed out name tags to everyone. For the next 30 minutes, Matthew and I told Alex and Kather-

Prefrosh, Page 18

Census forms distributed to living groups this week

Students who live on campus or in a FSILG will receive a census form this week. The census must be filled out as soon as it arrives and mailed back by National Census Day, April 1, 2010. Anyone who does not complete the census form will be fined \$100 by the Federal Government, and MIT is legally obligated to provide directory information on them to Census officials, who will visit to ensure completion of the form.

MIT is distributing the census forms to all residents of institute-approved housing. MIT is also keeping a website (<http://web.mit.edu/census/>) to answer any questions that the community may have about the census; students can find direct contacts about the census in their residence and look at examples of a census form. For more information e-mail census2010@mit.edu.

The U.S. Federal Census is a count of everyone residing in the United States, including US citizens, permanent residents, and aliens. Information collected by the census is confidential and will be used for purposes such as the allocation of funds to infrastructure, research and transportation.

— Jingyun Fan

IS YOUR NAME SUSAN ARTZ?

You should check out Steal My Comic. **FUN, p. 9**

BROUHAHA RHYTHM

Some songs are too embarrassing to reveal to your friends. **CL, p. 7**

VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRESS

On reciprocity. **CL, p. 7**



SPRING BREAK!

Tech staffers share photos from New York, the Bahamas, D.C., Amsterdam and more. **p. 10–11**

THE MARKET FOR THE ENDANGERED

When we pit vulnerable species against market forces, the market has a way of winning. **OPN, p. 4**

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Delaware and Tennessee win Obama’s U.S. school grants

By **Sam Dillon**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Delaware and Tennessee beat out 38 other states and the District of Columbia to win a share of \$4 billion in federal education grants, convincing the Obama administration that they have bold plans for overhauling their public school systems.

Delaware is to be awarded about \$100 million and Tennessee about \$500 million.

Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said the two states had won because they had written new laws to support their policies and had marshaled overwhelming statewide support from teachers, school districts and business leaders for comprehensive school improvement plans.

“We got 100 percent sign-on,” said Gov. Jack Markell of Delaware, a Democrat.

By announcing only two winners in the first round, Duncan held to his vow that only a small number of states with extremely ambitious plans would prevail in the Race to

the Top competition, which aims to promote innovation by rewarding a few states for exemplary progress in areas that President Barack Obama considers crucial to education reform.

Georgia and Florida came in third and fourth, but won no money.

The president’s goals include expanding charter schools, reworking teacher evaluation systems, improving states’ student-data tracking systems and turning around the lowest-performing schools.

One highlight of Delaware’s proposal was a new state law that allows teachers rated as “ineffective” for three years to be removed from the classroom, even if they have tenure, the department said.

Tennessee passed a law that will allow the state to intervene in failing schools and will permit student academic growth to be used in educator evaluations.

Forty states and the District of Columbia submitted proposals for the competition in January, more than had been originally expected, in part because plunging tax reve-

nues in the recession have left states hungry for federal money.

New York came in 15th of the 16 finalists. New York’s naming as a finalist had been a surprise because the Legislature did not eliminate caps on the number of charter schools, despite having been pushed to do so by both Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York and Gov. David A. Paterson.

Duncan had said political influence would play no part in the competition. But by choosing two states with Democratic governors, and by eliminating several strong contenders with Republican governors, the administration may face grumbling.

Andy Smarick, a Republican who served in the White House and in the Department of Education under President George W. Bush, said, “I don’t think that political influence was a primary determinant here, but it could have had a secondary effect.”

Obama has requested an additional \$1.3 billion to extend the competition into a third round next year.

10 Mexican students among dead in drug violence massacre

By **James C. McKinley Jr.**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Mexico reeled Monday from another bloody weekend of drug-related killings that was made even more horrible by the baffling massacre of 10 young people and children traveling in a pickup truck in Durango state.

With 21 people killed across the nation on Sunday, the only break in the bleak news was the announcement that a reputed street-gang leader had been arrested in connection with the slayings of three people with ties to the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez on March 13.

The young people slain in Durango were traveling from a farming community where they lived to the town of Los Naranjos to collect federal financial aid for students, prosecutors said in a statement.

A man in military garb waved the pickup to a stop, the authorities said. Then he and an unknown number of other attackers riddled

the truck with bullets and threw grenades at the occupants.

The victims ranged in age from 8 to 21 -- five girls and five boys from three families.

Though the motive remained unknown, Federal Interior Secretary Fernando Gomez-Mont noted Monday that the Sinaloa drug gang had been waging a war in the region with the Zetas, former commandos and assassins who have splintered off from the Gulf cartel to form their own drug trafficking organization.

Meanwhile, the authorities in Chihuahua state said they had arrested a reputed leader of the Barrio Azteca prison gang, Ricardo Valles de la Rosa, 45, in connection with the killing of a pregnant American consulate worker and her husband. The husband of another consular employee was also killed and his two young children were wounded.

The arrest of Valles de la Rosa, who has a long criminal history in Texas and is wanted on drug dealing charges there, comes after the

FBI swept through El Paso, Texas, on March 18, arresting more than 100 members of the street gang and interrogating them about the killings.

Valles de la Rosa was stopped in a car at an undisclosed location by Mexican soldiers at 6 a.m. on Friday. He has been held since then on a weapons-possession charge.

The pregnant consulate employee, Lesley A. Enriquez, and her husband, Arthur H. Redelfs, had just left a birthday party with their 7-month-old daughter when they were attacked on March 13. A few minutes later, Jorge Alberto Salcido, the husband of a Mexican employee at the consulate, was killed after leaving the same party. The Barrio Azteca gang has its roots in Texas prisons, but has operated on both sides of the border since the late 1990s.

Its members sometimes hire themselves out to the Juarez drug cartel for assassinations and other jobs, law enforcement officials say.

Muted speculation about N. Korea’s role in bombing of S. Korean warship

By **Choe Sang-Hun**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The mystery of what caused a South Korean warship to sink in disputed waters may not be solved for days, with rescuers still hunting for 46 missing sailors and a recovery crane slowly being carried to the site.

In the meantime, the political pressure will remain high on the South Korean government, which has been unable to offer a convincing explanation for the explosion that broke up within minutes late Friday night the 1,200-ton ship, the Cheonan.

South Korean officials, while careful not to point directly at North Korea, allowed speculation regarding its culpability to rage, speaking volumes about South Korea’s current state of uneasiness with the North.

“The government or our defense ministry has never said it ruled

out the possibility of North Korean involvement,” Kim Tae-young, defense minister of South Korea, said Monday during a grilling in parliament.

Asked about mines, Kim said it was “possible” that the Cheonan was hit by one of thousands of mines North Korea deployed near its coast during the Korean War, from 1950 to 1953. He also kept open the possibility that a North Korean submarine might have launched a torpedo, an initial focus of suspicion. North Korea has used difficult-to-detect submersibles to insert spies into the South.

Other theories mentioned at parliament and in the domestic media included an on-board saboteur and something exploding inside the warship, which reportedly carried torpedoes, depth charges, missiles and other weaponry.

The two Koreas remain technically at war, since the Korean War ended only in a truce. But relations,

relatively warm for years, have grown ever more tendentious with the North’s confrontational stance on its nuclear weapons program and the South’s election of President Lee Myung-bak, who took office in 2008 with a hard line against the North.

The fragility of peace on the divided Korean Peninsula is most evident along the disputed western maritime border in the Yellow Sea, where the two navies fought skirmishes in 1999 and 2002, and briefly exchanged fire again last November. North Korea has repeatedly warned of a “clash” and “retaliation” in these waters.

Fifty-eight sailors were rescued in the hours after the explosion, but none have been found since, alive or dead.

Any navy crewmen who initially survived and managed to seal themselves inside watertight cabins would most likely have run out of air by Monday night.

9 teenagers are charged after suicide of classmate

It is not clear what some students at South Hadley High School expected to achieve by subjecting a freshman to the relentless taunting described by a prosecutor and classmates.

Certainly not her suicide. And certainly not the multiple felony indictments against several students at the Massachusetts school.

The prosecutor brought charges Monday against nine teenagers, saying their taunting and physical threats were beyond the pale and led the freshman, Phoebe Prince, to hang herself from a stairwell in January.

The charges were an unusually sharp legal response to the problem of adolescent bullying, which is increasingly conducted in cyberspace as well as in the schoolyard and has drawn growing concern from parents, educators and lawmakers.

In the uproar around the suicides of Prince, 15, and an 11-year-old boy subjected to harassment in nearby Springfield last year, the Massachusetts Legislature stepped up work on an anti-bullying law that is now near passage. The law would require school staff members to report suspected incidents, and principals to investigate them. It would also demand that schools teach about the dangers of bullying. Forty-one other states have anti-bullying laws of varying strength.

In the settlement, the district said it would increase staff training to prevent harassment, pay \$50,000 to the boy’s family and reimburse the family for counseling, The Associated Press reported. The boy has moved to a different district.

—Erik Eckholm and Katie Zezima, *The New York Times*

A crime-plagued college that’s impossible to get into

This is the week when millions of college applicants will find out whether they got into their first-choice schools, were put on the waiting list or were rejected. Anyone whose heart is set on Hudson University will be disappointed.

Hudson University exists only on television — mainly on the long-running “Law & Order” shows on NBC, and also briefly on “Castle,” an ABC series about a New York police detective and a best-selling author who shadows her.

“Law & Order” and its spinoffs — “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” and “Law & Order: Criminal Intent” — have long wandered onto the Hudson campus when they needed to question college students.

“We had to create a university that did not exist,” explained Rene Balcer, a longtime producer and writer for the “Law & Order” shows, “and it’s really hard coming up with a name for a university that doesn’t exist somewhere in the country.”

A spokesman for ABC did not answer questions about whether its Hudson University was anything like the one on “Law & Order.” But Balcer had definite ideas about Hudson’s place in the academic world.

“It is the one place you never want to go to school or teach at,” he said. “Very high crime rate.”

—James Barron, *The New York Times*

FDA panel will examine the lure of cool menthol cigarettes

For the cigarette industry, the menthol debate is about to flare up again.

The new federal advisory board for tobacco regulation plans to meet for the first time Tuesday in Washington. Topping the agenda is one of the most contentious, and racially charged, health issues that Congress deferred last year when it empowered the Food and Drug Administration to regulate tobacco for the first time.

The question: what to do about menthol flavorings in cigarettes, which account for almost a third of the nation’s \$70 billion cigarette market?

Opponents of smoking, seven former secretaries of health and many members of Congress argued for an outright ban of menthol in the tobacco law last year. They said that the flavoring, which cools and masks the harsh taste of cigarettes, was used as a lure for young smokers while also being marketed to black smokers, who have the highest rates of smoking-related disease.

But when the issue threatened to fracture the legislation’s coalition of supporters — including the industry giant Altria, which owns Philip Morris — Congress passed the issue on to the FDA and gave it a two-year deadline to propose new regulations.

Critics also say menthol levels have been manipulated to attract underage first-time smokers.

The report said the government could also set higher prices for menthol cigarettes.

—Duff Wilson, *The New York Times*

Wall Street starts to recover, as oil prices jump nearly 3 percent

A brighter outlook for the American consumer and signs that foreign debt troubles were easing helped propel Wall Street higher on Monday.

Adding to the momentum, shares of energy companies rose after the price of oil surged nearly 3 percent. Two attacks on the subway system in Russia, a major oil producer, raised concerns about supplies.

But much of the focus on Monday was on the health of the economic recovery, as investors recalibrated their portfolios ahead of a data-heavy week. The Commerce Department said that consumer spending rose 0.3 percent in February, even though household income remained flat.

“Spending has been growing even when employment has been weak,” said Thomas J. Lee, chief United States equity strategist at JPMorgan Chase. “And it’s not like people are borrowing to spend — they are getting their finances in order and then spending.”

—Javier C. Hernandez, *The New York Times*

WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD & NATION WORLD

Finally!

Though it may prove a disaster for Democrats in November, they have done the right thing by passing health care reform

By Keith Yost
STAFF COLUMNIST

There's a health policy joke that MIT's Jon Gruber likes to tell: A health economist dies and goes to heaven. When he gets there, he is greeted by St. Peter and told that he can ask God one question. The economist asks, "Will there ever be universal health insurance coverage in the United States?" God replies, "Yes, but not in my lifetime."

Well, it looks like the good professor is going to have to find a new opener for his health care speeches. On Tuesday, March 23, against the prognostications of many (including myself), President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. When the act's major provisions go into effect in 2014, universal coverage (or something very close to it) will become a reality in the U.S.

The core of the reform is the individual mandate. Four years from now, each citizen will be required to purchase insurance or be penalized with a hefty fine. Combined with a system of subsidies for poorer Americans and a ban on rate discrimination by insurers (with exceptions for age and geographical location), this reform will end the problem of adverse selection in health insurance markets and finally make it possible for insurers to offer actuarially fair premiums without losing money.

Most Americans — those covered by employer-provided insurance or already under a mandate (like Massachusetts) — will not notice the difference. They already enjoy the large risk pools that a mandate would provide, and a small payroll tax increase notwithstanding, will probably go about their lives as usual. But for the unemployed, self-employed, those who own or work for small businesses, and those who are otherwise unable to access employer pools, there will finally be a functioning free market from which to purchase health insurance.

The robust non-group market that this bill provides will better allow millions to insure themselves against one of the greatest financial risks that the average citizen faces and will remove a significant barrier to job switching. As a result, our economy will be more efficient and dynamic, and offer greater horizontal equality. Finally, Americans will no longer be stuck to their jobs or bankrupted due to health conditions.

The act is unlikely to “bend the curve” of health care costs, but not due to lack of trying. The act adopts a large range of mea-

tures in an attempt to rein in our rising health care costs, but curbing health care costs is a difficult issue without a simple solution even if political considerations were stripped out of the debate.

The absence of a public option should not be of concern. Lack of competition is not a defining issue in insurance markets, and accordingly the Congressional Budget Office has estimated the impact of a public option to be negligible. Furthermore, a public option would have left a back door open for government to take over the provision of health insurance by running the option at a

The robust non-group market that this bill provides will better allow millions to insure themselves against one of the greatest financial risks that the average citizen faces and will remove a significant barrier to job switching.

loss to drive out private insurers. By keeping it out, we have preserved our free market system and averted creating a source of regulatory risk for private insurers.

Although the act's passage will provide a small bump to Democratic approval ratings in the short term, do not expect the effect to last long. Between now and 2014, the act does little, and what it does do will likely be to the detriment of Democratic re-election chances. There are three primary reasons why the act will remain unpopular.

First, Democrats will take their lumps for the favorable CBO score they obtained. When health care bills were first being floated, the CBO scored them as adding at least \$900 billion to the national debt over a ten-year window. The bill that passed was scored at roughly \$150 billion in the black over that same window. Deficit-fighting is not a free lunch, and Democrats took their pound of flesh out of seniors to reach budget neutrality. Some \$500 billion will be cut from Medicare over the next decade.

This cut may exacerbate an existing problem, namely that of doctors and hospitals refusing to serve public program en-

rollees due to low rates of remuneration. To the act's credit, most of this reduction will come in the form of cuts to wasteful spending and overly generous procedure reimbursements, which will only affect the bottom lines of hospitals and private practices indirectly as they can be somewhat offset by reductions in the number of tests and procedures performed (with hopefully little impact on quality of care provided). However, profits from wasteful spending are still profits, and it remains that on the net, hospitals and doctors will find their revenue tightened. Each senior that loses their doctor or otherwise finds their health care changed as a result will likely be a Republican vote in the next election; in particular, keep an eye on the ten million subscribers to Medicare Advantage.

Furthermore, during the debate, Republicans were able to successfully link the “doc fix,” a perennial vote to avert a large cut to doctor reimbursement rates that has been programmed into the Medicare program, to health care reform by arguing that savings wrung out of Medicare should be used to permanently solve the problem of doctor reimbursement. As a consequence, Democrats will be open to fresh charges of either harming seniors or growing the deficit every time the issue comes up.

Secondly, as strong as this act is, there is one area Democrats sacrificed their rationality to sentimentality. Throughout the debate, they referenced the “three-legged stool” of health insurance reform: You couldn’t ban discrimination based upon pre-existing conditions without a mandate, and you couldn’t in good conscience enact a mandate without subsidizing those who cannot afford health insurance. They pointed out, quite rightly, that ending discrimination based upon pre-existing conditions without a mandate was a recipe for an insurance death spiral: Of the six states that had attempted such a move, all six are now among the eight most expensive insurance markets in the country.

And yet, if the bill's language is interpreted as the Obama administration intended, starting immediately insurers will be unable to charge different rates on children with pre-existing conditions. As a consequence, between now and 2014, we should expect a rapid deterioration of the non-group family insurance market. The reaction from parents without mentally or physically handicapped children will be vicious.

Lastly, the experience of individual

mandates in Massachusetts should provide some illumination on the act's likely effects. Although coverage in this state has skyrocketed, insurance premiums have remained among the highest in the nation and continue to rise. Critics have seized upon this as evidence that the mandate is not working as advertised — all other things equal, insurance mandates should lower premiums, not raise them. The critics are wrong, but the truth is not much prettier. Despite fixing the market failure, Massachusetts insurance costs are still dominated by underlying health care costs. What benefits have been provided in terms of reduced premiums have been drowned out by the noisy (and growing) health care costs of which the premiums are derivative.

If Democrats are expecting voters to sit and listen to a differences-in-differences statistical analysis of how health care reform actually helped them even though their premiums just went up, then they really have ignored the lessons from the stimulus package. “Things are bad but not as bad as they would have been if we had done nothing” is a thoroughly unconvincing argument to the layman, whether applied to unemployment or health care. Most of what the act achieves will not be useful campaign fodder for any-

Although the act is (and will likely remain) markedly unpopular, it will correct a large and persistent market failure and ultimately lead to a higher standard of living for all.

one but those who voted no.

In short, Democrats did the hard, but right thing. Although the act is (and will likely remain) markedly unpopular, it will correct a large and persistent market failure and ultimately lead to a higher standard of living for all. As ugly as the process was, it worked. In the partisan environment that we live in, when so many of our representatives are too craven to act as trustees, not tribunes, of the public interest, this is not just a victory for health care reform, this is a victory for our American system of democracy. Finally, the system works.

To save vulnerable species, start by not selling them

Seeing Green, from Page 4

ics, the life history of each species, and the amount of cash available for protective measures. In many cases, we've come a long way: Shooting an elephant in Africa is no longer every young American man's fantasy, and we no longer insist on turtle-shell bowls.

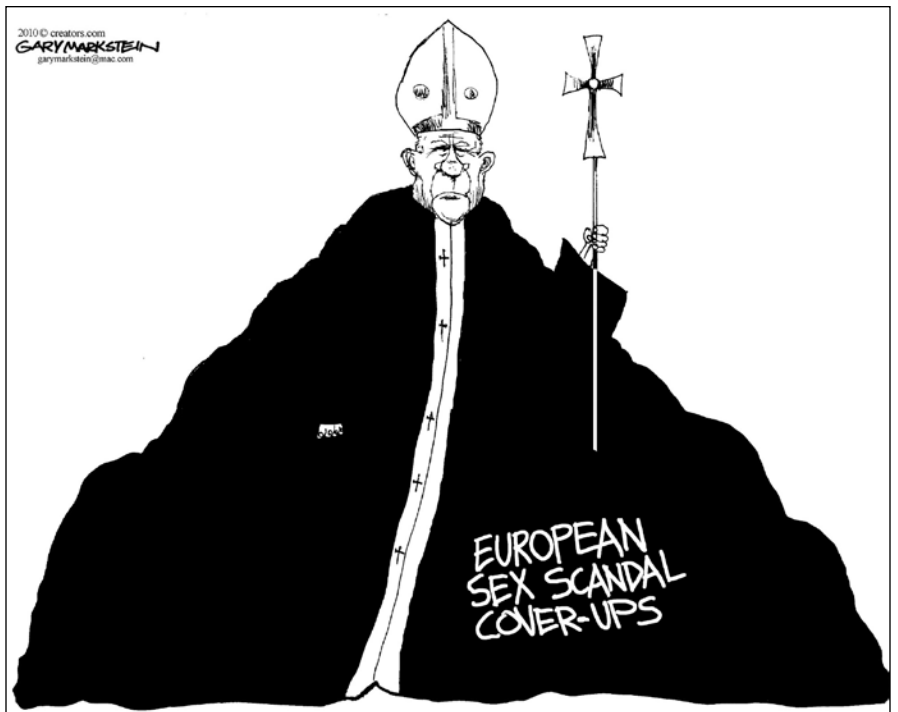
However, these cultural changes began by acknowledging that a species was in trouble, and the results of last week's CITES meeting seem frighteningly like a denial. Of course, countries want to protect their sovereignty and their right to sushi and shark-fin soup. And it's distressingly easy to bury one's head in the economic sand and assume there are still plenty of fish in the sea.

But the reality is that our oceans are dying. We may have no better dumping ground

for polluting chemicals and bargeloads of trash, and we may not be able to prevent climate change and ocean acidification from fundamentally changing marine life. By contrast, cutting back on our harvest of tuna and sharks seems like a tractable first step.

First, though, we need to impose trade restrictions to lock down international markets. In a few years' time, when the next CITES meeting is held, the case for listing tuna and sharks will only be stronger. Two-thirds of our planet is ocean: let's hope we can get two-thirds of our land on board to protect it.

Holly Moeller is a graduate student in the MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Biological Oceanography. She welcomes reader feedback at hollyvm@mit.edu. "Seeing Green" runs on alternate Tuesdays.



Flaming on your mind?



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GSC CORNER

Who's in charge here?

By Kevin Liu

This is the first in a series on the graduate student leadership development experience at MIT, brought to you by the Leadership Development Subcommittee of the MIT Graduate Student Council. They welcome comments and feedback at gsc-leadership@mit.edu.

I'm a very top-down sort of person. I'm used to being able to ask "who's in charge here?" and getting a simple answer. At MIT, the answer to that question is never simple, and that's the beauty of this place.

When I first arrived here just over a year and a half ago, I was stunned at how anything ever got done. It seemed that everyone I met was working on something completely different, in silos, separated from other departments and projects. Somehow, though, the atmosphere at MIT always seems to evoke progress. Whether it's the construction of a gorgeous new building (ignoring Stata for the moment), a breakthrough that advances scientific knowledge, or the creation of a new student club, it's hard to turn a corner around campus without seeing something you've never seen before.

What does this have to do with leadership? What I've learned is that looking for leadership from a top-down perspective simply doesn't work at MIT. Every leadership relationship I've witnessed has truly been a relationship between peers. Students can connect in so many ways; it's inevitable that roles shift and blur depending on con-

text. Each of us has been in these situations: your roommate doubles as your project team leader, your TA becomes teammate on an IM sport, or you find yourself interviewing someone who had just interviewed you a few days prior. Peer leadership challenges us because peers don't have the luxury of leading from a podium. We all sit in the orchestra, equal in importance, sharing the responsibilities of the occasional lead part. As peers, we must define common goals, understand each others' strengths, and build consensus before taking action.

I'm used to being able to ask "who's in charge here?" and getting a simple answer. At MIT, the answer to that question is never simple.

I was always taught that the best view was from the top; who doesn't aspire to become the CEO, the big shot with the corner office? Shouldn't MIT students be charting their path toward becoming top-down leaders rather than wasting time mucking around with peers? Once again, I think MIT is at the cutting edge of what it means to be a leader. The clubs, conferences, and activities we get involved in here are not just for practice —

they have real impact. They prepare us for the real world of today. What does it matter who has the corner office when your nearest coworker works an ocean away? Does innovation rest in the hands of CEOs, or friends tinkering in a garage? Is it really important to fight for the view from the top, or can you see the details better from the bottom?

The answers to these questions are more blurry today than ever before. Prolific information technology, the spread of common languages, and increasing multilateralism in international relations guarantees a future where peer relationships, not executive management, will separate good leaders from bad.

With that in mind, there are a few ways that we as a community can improve. First off, we need more participation by faculty and staff in student-organized activities. Due to the nature of their positions and the necessity to interact with students, faculty and staff offer a valuable broad perspective to students. On top of that, social settings offer a chance to learn lessons that might not come up in the classroom or lab. Both students and teachers can gain insights from each other, and at least for now, these opportunities are too often not taken.

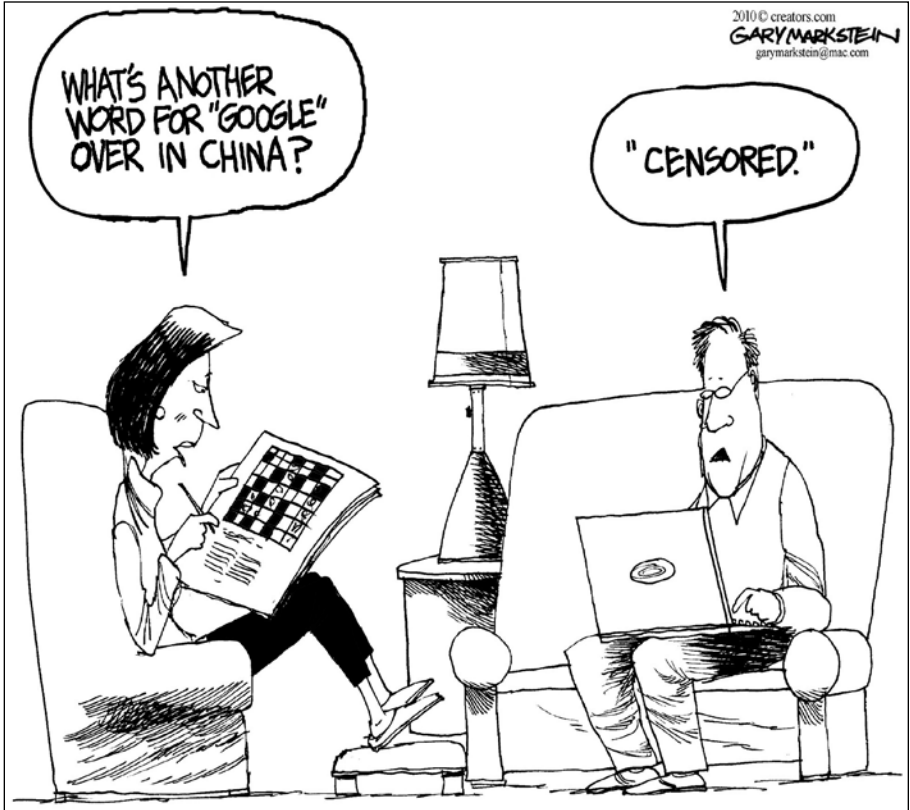
Second, the Graduate Student Council and Association of Student Activities should support team-building activities for student leaders at the beginning of the school year. Graduate students tend to come into a new year fresh with ideas and motivation; they

slowly lose this initial enthusiasm as classes, research, and other priorities stack up. Currently, the Leadership BBQ is a great example of just such an activity, but it occurs at the end of the year, rather than the beginning. Teams need to be built very early so that peers can motivate each other throughout the year.

Finally, each student group should be required to write annual or semi-annual summaries of accomplishments as a requirement for ASA recognition. Budget breakdowns (which must be submitted for GSC-funded events anyway) should also be made public. These reports would give the MIT community a gateway for looking at what happens here due to student leadership on a daily basis. They would help like-minded groups find each other, reduce duplication of effort, and increase transparency on campus.

Making these suggested changes would help to incentivize student leaders to work with each other and get recognition for their efforts. At the same time, the independence that defines leadership at MIT would be preserved. And keeping this independence while promoting collaboration is very important, as each leader at MIT needs to have room to grow, succeed, and make their own mistakes. Because at MIT, the answer to the question "who's in charge here?" is you.

Kevin Liu is a second-year S.M. candidate in the Technology and Policy Program (TPP).



BROUHAHA RHYTHM

Moderating musical tastes

The songs that are too embarrassing to play in public

By Michael Lin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Upon hearing that I'd only ever heard the highlights from the *Phantom of the Opera*, as opposed to the full soundtrack, a friend of mine who is...enthusiastic about the show lent me the two-disc complete set over spring break. The fact that I still remembered most of the lyrics, in spite of not having heard them in the better part of a decade, is testament to both how much I enjoyed *Phantom* and how little other music I had access to at age 12. My much-belated apologies to the people in my 7th grade gym class on the day I thought the title song was appropriate workout music.

I've occasionally been told by my friends, upon hearing the music playing out of my laptop from time to time, that I have good taste in music. As much as I'd like to take their compliments to heart, it's necessary that I take their praise with a large grain of salt called "the stuff they never hear, because I never play it in public."

Some of you may have in mind the boy bands and pop stars of the 1990s as your musical guilty pleasure of choice, but even when they were popular, they were a phenomenon that I missed entirely. It was entirely by chance that I ever listened to the Backstreet

A lot of the music I'd be ashamed to play around my friends, I will gladly blast from my car stereo with the windows open.

Boys at all, when a friend of mine gave me one of their CDs as a half-hearted birthday present. I have to admit that the music was not as bad as my pretentious fourth-grade self believed, but even so, my father got (and continues to get) more enjoyment out of that

CD than I ever did.

No, the music in my library that I only listen to on my own is typically a) blues/folk music by people who most people don't realize even have musical careers, b) soft rock songs I like from movies I've seen, or c) foreign film soundtracks. For every indie band that I turn my friends on to, there's a *Once Upon A Time in China* theme song that I hold on to because I think it would be a great workout song if I ever started working out at a gym for fans of Jet Li's early career. Show tunes used to form a fourth category, but once you're taking a class on musicals, reviewing musicals, and performing in a musical, it's pretty clear that you may as well embrace musicals as something you're into. Which brings us back to *Phantom of the Opera*.

I first became interested in *Phantom of the Opera* when I trawled my parents' CD collection for something to listen to, stumbling across the highlights CD, as well as significant amounts of Eagles and Chinese bootleg recordings of "Old Style Love Songs." I try not to

think too hard about how many times I sang along to "My Girl" by the Temptations before realizing that it wasn't the original version, or even necessarily the Temptations. Of course, my musical tastes started being shaped at that point, as a lot of music I found didn't strike my interest at all, although I'd probably listened to Barney the Dinosaur's classic hits, parts one and two, at some point in my extreme youth and forgotten about it.

I will say this much about my music, though — a lot of the music I'd be ashamed to play around my friends, I will gladly blast from my car stereo with the windows open, if only in hopes of finding a kindred spirit in the next lane. Such is the case with the accordion-heavy polka "Los Dos Laredos," which is the song that a well-known vehicle in a well-known web series has stuck on its radio, "well-known" being a relative term. Ironically, that's a song I *have* played for my friends, with predictable blank-faced results. And I still haven't had anyone recognize it on the highway.

VARIOUS STATES OF UNDRRESS

Going down

By M.

Last week, I met one of my good friends for lunch at a fancy restaurant, the kind where they hand you a steak knife for your burger, and she started talking about sex with her man-friend. She's usually more reserved, so I was curious.

"He loves going down on me. He can do it for, like, forty minutes, without getting tired! And he's really, really good at it, too," she raved. You could just see it in her face, that every time this guy put his face between her legs was like Christmas morning to her.

"Oh, wow, I'm so happy for you!" I fake-smiled and bit on my burger angrily. Thanks to the cold sores and the mono a gorgeous but very questionable European guy shared with me, I've been out of the game for a month or so. I haven't so much as kissed anybody, let alone been so close to having a guy's face between my legs. To say that I was seething with envy would be an understatement.

I'd never felt like my sex life was lacking, but I realized there was a lot that I was missing out on; namely, a guy to treat me to dinner and some oral sex. Even before the European debacle, I wasn't getting much in terms of dining and being eaten out. All this time, I viewed my conquests like a shelf of trophies, and realizing that they were less-than-stellar lovers because they never went down on me was, well, a let-down.

When I asked around, I seemed to be the only one with this problem. My friends in relationships are getting awesome oral on the regular from their pussy-worshipping lovers. And then the guys I talked to said they love doing it. I think I got a bad sample group, because my experience suggests that guys don't offer it up so easily. I mean, where are these elusive cunnilingus-loving guys?

I met a guy some months ago whom I consider to be the finest thing Spain has exported since Manchego cheese. In addition to

introducing me to some very exotic moves, he was the first guy brave enough to go where no other had been before, and boy, he did one

I think I got a bad sample group, because my experience suggests that guys don't offer it up so easily. I mean, where are these elusive cunnilingus-loving guys?

fine job of it. But he disappeared like they usually do after a one-night stand and I was left high and dry, never able to recreate that

magic. No other guy has gone down on me, not even when I ask nicely. They have been all too happy to let me work my jaw into premature arthritis by pleasing them orally, and then they don't return the favor. In fact, one time I dared to ask that I be pleased in return, you know what he said?

"In a little bit, I'm tired."
Really? You tell that to my locked jaw. There are other things I'd rather shove in my mouth than your penis. That effort should not go unappreciated and unrewarded.

I'm probably sleeping with all the wrong guys, but I don't have a way of telling who eats pussy and who doesn't before I actually get into bed with them. By that point, it's too late. And, while I'm very assertive and ask for what I want, I'm not about to force guys to do it or start withholding blow jobs until they acquiesce. Sex isn't supposed to be tit-for-tat.

I like to give blowjobs and don't think of them as a chore. Getting my partner off gets me off, and if

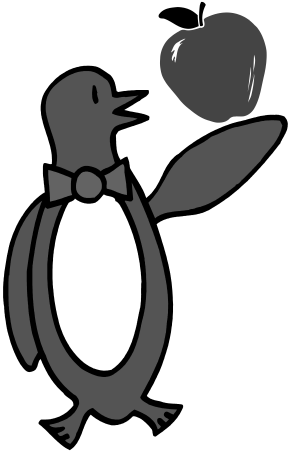
that requires putting my face in their crotch for 25 minutes and fishing pubes out of my mouth, I'll take it like a champ. Guys should have the same attitude regarding us girls, especially given that a lot of girls can't get off from fucking alone. If going down on her is what it takes to finish the job, then a selfless lover would bite the bullet (not literally, please) and do it. With a smile.

Surely, I am not the only girl out there who is very generous and not getting what she wants in return. It'd be nice if you just offered it every once in a while — or how about every time? — without us having to ask. Blowjobs are always expected during sex, but cunnilingus is seen more as a bonus, and that's not fair. Girls like having a face in their crotch from time to time too, you know. And we don't even have to do dinner. I have some cheese in the fridge.

M. is a junior in Course 10. She can be contacted at undress@tech.mit.edu.

We have computers

You're probably Course 6



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COURSE 22

NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FRESHMAN OPEN HOUSE

AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Thursday, April 1, 2010, 2:30 — 4:30pm

Bush Room (10-105)

Come Check out research opportunities and career paths in Nuclear Science and Engineering

The 2010 Harold & Arlene Schnitzer Prize in the Visual Arts

Paintings, prints, sculpture, video, photography, ceramics, art glass - all forms of visual art

All currently registered MIT students may enter the Schnitzer Visual Arts Competition

Deadline: **Monday April 5, 2010**

between 12noon and 5pm at the Student Art Association (W20-429), please submit:

- 1) Examples of artist's work
 - a. Three pieces that best represent your entire body of work
 - b. Or one piece of original work and visual representations of other originals (i.e. slides, photographic prints, etc.)
- 2) A written statement concerning artist's intent as it pertains to his or her works and art in general

PRIZES & EXHIBITION

Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in the competition

Honorable mentions may also be awarded

Winners must be willing and able to display their work in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery for an exhibition that will open on May 25, 2010

This includes the installation and deinstallation of the exhibition

The exhibit will be up during Commencement, and close on June 29, 2010

There will be an opening reception at the gallery for the MIT community on May 25, 2010

***FIRST Prize \$5,000**

***SECOND Prize \$2,500**

***THIRD Prize \$2,000**

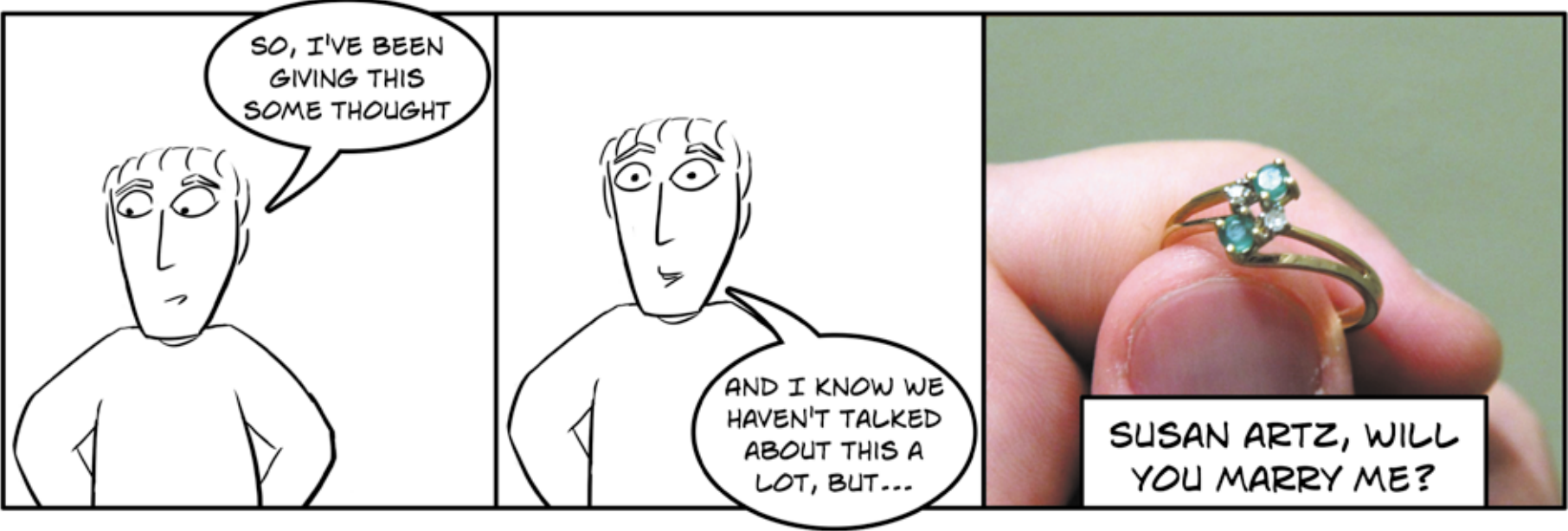
Please contact cohen@media.mit.edu if you have any questions

<http://saa.mit.edu/schnitzer-prize>

Application: http://web.mit.edu/arts/about/awards/Schnitzer_app2008.pdf

Steal My Comic

by Michael Ciuffo



Easy Sudoku

Solution, page 18

	1	2			6			
		9						8
8		3	5	9			6	
			7		8			
7	9		3		4		2	5
			9		2			
	5			2	9	6		4
3						7		
			6			1	5	

Hard Sudoku

Solution, page 18

		4	6			7		9
	2	3						4
						8	3	
		1	8	9			7	
7			3		6			8
	6			4	7	2		
	1	6						
5						3	6	
2		8			1	5		

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 18

ACROSS

- 1 Buttriss
- 6 Infield covers
- 11 Organ of equilibrium
- 14 Dubuque man
- 15 Poker statement
- 16 ___-de-France
- 17 Dress shirt part
- 19 Roman gods
- 20 Brings out
- 21 Floating mountain
- 23 Take off
- 24 Curly's cohort
- 25 Scientologist Hubbard
- 26 Singer Carter
- 28 Zoomed
- 30 Actor Cronyn
- 33 Magic bullet
- 35 "Return of the Jedi" critters
- 38 French friend
- 39 Watch the kids
- 41 Humor
- 42 Mediterranean republic
- 44 Wise off
- 45 Ginger cookie
- 46 Statesman Waldheim
- 48 Novelist Lofts
- 50 Thespian group
- 52 Long period

- 54 Blake of "Gunsmoke"
- 58 Gangster "Dutch"
- 60 Interrogate after a mission
- 61 Sch. group
- 62 Investor's option
- 64 Thumbs up for John Glenn
- 65 Bogged down
- 66 January in Leon
- 67 Map dir.
- 68 Invite
- 69 Hamlet and Ophelia

DOWN

- 1 Two-footed animal
- 2 Esther of "Good Times"
- 3 Expect
- 4 Waterfall
- 5 Tempt
- 6 Twitches
- 7 Sawbones' org.
- 8 Relative degree
- 9 Puts
- 10 Roy Rogers at birth
- 11 Duck product
- 12 Olds model
- 13 Period in power
- 18 Cornell's town
- 22 Muffed

- 24 Gary Collins' Mobley
- 27 Small lumps
- 29 Touch tenderly
- 30 Son of Noah
- 31 Ms. Thurman
- 32 Soda fountain treat
- 34 Old gas
- 36 Spectra maker
- 37 Gas additive letters
- 39 Saloon
- 40 Middle East nation
- 43 Ballerina garb
- 45 The Knack hit, "My ___"
- 47 Falling-blocks game
- 49 Walked leisurely
- 50 Senate sessions station
- 51 Respond to
- 53 Alabama city
- 55 "Separate Tables" star
- 56 Tractor man
- 57 Bushy dos
- 59 Capital of Peru
- 60 Bygone bird
- 63 Part of IRA

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17					18							19		
20								21			22			
23							24				25			
			26			27			28	29				
30	31	32			33			34		35			36	37
38				39					40			41		
42			43			44					45			
			46			47		48			49			
50	51				52	53			54			55	56	57
58					59			60						
61				62			63							
64					65						66			
67					68						69			



NICHOLAS CHORNAY—THE TECH



ADITI VERMA



DAN KUBACZYK—THE TECH



ANA LYONS—THE TECH



AVIV OVADYA—THE TECH



DAN KUBACZYK—THE TECH



ADITI VERMA

Tech staffers share spring break photos

While some *Tech* staffers stayed in the area for spring break, others traveled as far away as Amsterdam. Here, they share their experiences in photos.

(near left, above) A stork stands on the coast of Key Largo, Florida.

(near left, below) Protesters gather in front of the Capitol building on March 20 to oppose the new health care bill, which was signed into law later that week.

(near right) From left: Kelly A. Strominger '10 and Deborah C. Markham '10 board the boat after snorkeling in the South West Bay off Nassau, The Bahamas on Tuesday, March 23.

(clockwise from top left) MIT Ballroom Dance Team members Ran Yi and Jing Wang '10 compete in the championship standard at the Harvard Invitational Ballroom Competition this past weekend.

Korean drummers lead the march at an anti-war protest in Washington D.C. on March 20. The protest against the war in Iraq and Afghanistan was organized by the Act Now to Stop War and Racism coalition and

Party for Socialism and Liberation).

Buildings can be seen on the North Miami Beach, located in Key Largo, Florida.

Jingyun Fan '12 and Ana Lyons '12 visit Times Square in New York City and bring *The Tech*.

The cruise ship *Carnival-Fascination* is docked at Nassau, The Bahamas on the evening of March 22.

Ana Lyons '12 studies *Frida Kahlo's "Fulang-Chang and I"* in New York's Museum of Modern Art.

Butterflies rest in the Biodome in Montreal, Canada. Unlike in most zoos, the majority of animals in the Biodome are uncaged.

Motorcycles and bicycles are parked outside of Centraal Station in Amsterdam.

A windmill is seen on the eastern outskirts of central Amsterdam.



DAVID M. TEMPLETON—THE TECH



ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH



AVIV OVADYA—THE TECH



JASMINE FLORENTINE—THE TECH



JINGYUN FAN—THE TECH

MIT GAMBIT Game Lab had PAX East booth

Fans packed Hynes to meet Penny Arcade creators and play video games

PAX East, from Page 1

ators, fans begged for a CD of the Video Game Orchestra's performance and a DVD of the entire convention.

"It'd be so awesome to have a DVD of this," one attendee said.

At the Q&A session, an incredibly dramatic opening sequence of flashing lights and deep bass introduced the two creators, who stood on stage dressed in t-shirts and jeans and opened up the floor for questions.

One attendee remarked on the influence that Mike and Jerry have in the gaming industry, bringing up the Ambassador Award the two recently won at the Game Developers' Conference.

"Do we have that power?" Holkins asked. "Is this where I take the sword from the stone? Become king of all kings?" Krahulik said.

Questions ranged from asking if the two creators would ever consider bringing Nathan Fillion as a guest speaker for PAX (they suggested everyone in the room tweet him personally), to what to do if you find your dad playing the sex minigame in God of War 3 ("I'm sorry for your trauma" said Krahulik), to advice on getting married and moving in together.

"We can't even manage our own lives," Holkins said.

One woman stood to ask a question and began to cry. "I spent the better part of my childhood in the hospital," she said, as she began telling the audience about how playing N64 used to take her mind off her pain. A number of people had already thanked Penny Arcade for running Child's Play, a charity that donates video games and toys to children's hospitals across the country. When she heard of this charity, she knew how much it meant to those children.

"I just wanted to thank you guys personally," she said. The entire auditorium rose in applause and Krahulik jumped from the stage to give her a hug.

Other heartwarming moments from the talk included when Holkins tried to give a man an Intel Core i7 processor as a prize. The gift was in return for some custom PAX themed trading cards that man had created and presented to Krahulik and Holkins. The fan shook Holkins's hand and returned the present.



JESSICA J. POURIAN—THE TECH

Upstairs, PAX provided a number of computers to play games like Battlefield II. The Penny Arcade Exposition, a videogame convention, ran from Friday to Sunday.

"I'm just gonna give this right back to Child's Play," he said to warm applause.

The entire second floor of the convention center was taken up by the main exposition which featured companies like EA, 2K Games, Rockstar, NVIDIA, Microsoft, AlienWare and Wizards of the Coast. Many people could be found playing Nintendo DS, sitting on the sides of the expo.

The Prince of Persia: the Forgotten Sands booth kept a large crowd around at all times, and crowds flooded to the screening area for Red Dead Redemption, an old Western action-adventure game created by the developers of Grand Theft Auto. Mafia II and Bioshock II were also popular stations, along

with Skate 3 and Dante's Inferno.

The MIT GAMBIT Game lab ran a large booth at PAX displaying two of their games, Dearth and Waker. Stephanie Wu '10, a researcher in the MIT GAMBIT lab, was busy teaching attendees about Dearth, a cooperative game that requires players to coordinate to destroy the monsters chasing them.

"Every game we make has a research objective," she said. "In this case, our objective was to study the way humans played in two player mode to further our computer players' AI in one player."

Asked if she had gotten a chance to explore PAX herself, Wu laughed and nodded.

"It's pretty cool," she said, "lots of swag,

could definitely pick some up."

Upstairs, PAX featured several rooms full of computers and consoles for free-play and tournaments. In addition to rooms for the standard Halo, Super Smash Bros. Brawl, Counterstrike, and Rock Band games, there was a room setup for Steel Battalion, a fancy mech pilot game with an incredibly detailed control console. Of all of the gaming rooms, this one was among the most quiet: occupying the room were the players with the most intense expressions.

Due to the high attendance this year, when PAX East returns next year it will move to the considerably larger Boston Convention and Exhibition center.

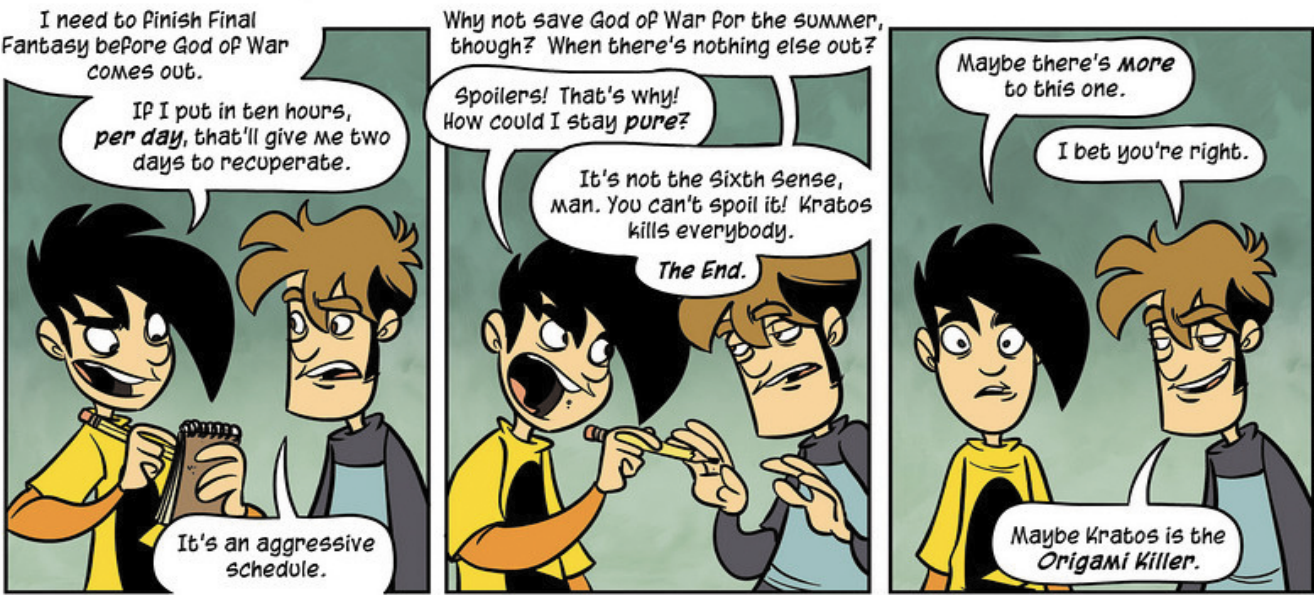


by Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik

PAXination



Applied Scheduling



Breast cancer genes can't be patented, judge rules

District judge's verdict could throw human gene patents into question

By John Schwartz and Andrew Pollack
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A federal judge on Monday struck down patents on two genes linked to breast and ovarian cancer. The decision, if upheld, could throw into doubt the patents covering thousands of human genes and reshape the law of intellectual property.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Sweet issued the 152-page decision, which invalidated seven patents related to genes whose mutations have been associated to breast cancer, BRCA1 and BRCA2.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Public Patent Foundation at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in New York joined with individual patients and medical organizations to challenge the patents last May: they argued that genes, products of nature, fall outside of the realm of things that can be patented. The patents, they argued, stifle research and innovation and limit testing options.

Myriad Genetics, the company that holds the patents with the

University of Utah Research Foundation, asked the court to dismiss the case, claiming that the work of isolating the DNA from the body transforms it and makes it patentable. Such patents, it said, have been granted for decades; the Supreme Court upheld patents on living organisms in 1980. In fact, many in the patent field had predicted the courts would throw out the suit.

About 20 percent of the human genes have been patented, and multibillion-dollar industries have been built...

Sweet, however, ruled that the patents were "improperly granted" because they involved a "law of nature." He said that many critics of gene patents considered the idea that isolating a gene made it patentable "a 'lawyer's trick' that circumvents the prohibition on the direct

patenting of the DNA in our bodies but which, in practice, reaches the same result."

The case could have far-reaching implications. About 20 percent of human genes have been patented, and multibillion-dollar industries have been built atop the intellectual property rights that the patents grant.

"If a decision like this were upheld, it would have a pretty significant impact on the future of medicine," said Kenneth Chahine, a visiting law professor at the University of Utah who filed an amicus brief on the side of Myriad. He said that medicine was becoming more personalized, with genetic tests used not only to diagnose diseases but to determine which medicine is best for which patient.

Chahine, who once ran a biotechnology firm, said the decision could also make it harder for young companies to raise money from investors. "The industry is going to have to get more creative about how to retain exclusivity and attract capital in the face of potentially weaker patent protection," he said.

Edward Reines, a patent law-

yer who represents biotechnology firms but was not involved in the case, said loss of patent protection could diminish the incentives for genetic research.

Loss of patent protection could diminish the incentives for genetic research.

"The genetic tools to solve the major health problems of our time have not been found yet," said Reines, who is with the Silicon Valley office of the firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges. "These are the discoveries we want to motivate by providing incentives to all the researchers out there."

The lawsuit also challenged the patents on First Amendment grounds, but Judge Sweet ruled that because the issues in the case could be decided within patent law, the constitutional question need not be decided.

The decision is likely to be appealed. Representatives of Myriad

did not return calls seeking comment. But this month, the company's chief executive, Peter Meldrum, told investors that "regardless of the outcome of this particular lawsuit, it will not have a material adverse effect on the company," or its future revenues, according to the Pharmacogenomics Reporter, "or on the future revenues of our products."

Janice Oh, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan, which represented the Patent and Trademark Office in the case, had no comment.

One of the individual plaintiffs in the suit, Genae Girard, who has breast cancer and has been tested for ovarian cancer, applauded the decision as "a big turning point for all women in the country that may have breast cancer that runs in their family." Chris Hansen, an ACLU staff lawyer, said: "The human genome, like the structure of blood, air or water, was discovered not created. There is an endless amount of information on genes that begs for further discovery, and gene patents put up unacceptable barriers to the free exchange of ideas."



Venezuela in Latin America: A Glimpse into the Chavez Era

Join us for a talk with Professors Ricardo Hausmann and Leonardo Vivas about the economic, political and social changes in Venezuela and their impact in Latin America

Venezuela has experienced a tremendous transformation over the past decade. The "21st Century Socialist Revolution" spearheaded by President Hugo Chávez has redefined the political, social, military, and economic pillars in the country and, increasingly, the region. The radicalization of Latin American politics, the shift toward highly planned economies, and the precarious interactions of the region with various players in the world arena, have become increasingly relevant topics in the international agenda. In this talk three experts with extensive experience about Venezuela and Latin America will discuss their perspectives on the effects of the Chávez era on the macroeconomic development, political trends, regional conflict, and social cohesion in both Venezuela and Latin America as a whole.

Tomorrow, Wed, 03/30, 5:30pm, 54-100

About the Speakers:



Prof. Ricardo Hausmann is Director of the Center for International Development and Professor of the Practice of Economic Development at Harvard University. Previously, he served as the first Chief Economist of the Inter-American Development Bank (1994-2000), where he created the Research Department. He has served as Minister of Planning of Venezuela (1992-1993) and as a member of the Board of the Central Bank of Venezuela. He also served as Chair of the IMF-World Bank Development Committee. His research interests include issues of growth, macroeconomic stability, international finance, and the social dimensions of development.



Prof. Leonardo Vivas, is currently a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University and Coordinator of the Latin American Initiative. He currently teaches Latin American Politics at UMass-Lowell. Leonardo has been a fellow and associate researcher at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. At Tufts University he taught a course about the Chavez Era in Venezuela. In Venezuela he was Director of Industry in the Development Ministry and founder of several nonprofit organizations. Professor Vivas has published two books about Venezuela's political crises.

Hosted by the Venezuelan Student Association at MIT (vensamit-admin@mit.edu)

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New EPA scrutiny of plastic chemical

Concerns over bisphenol-A

By John M. Broder
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to add bisphenol-A, or BPA, a plastic widely used in food packaging and plastic bottles, to its list of chemicals of concern because of potential adverse impacts on the environment and human and animal health.

The agency will require new studies of concentrations of the plastic in surface water, ground water and drinking water to determine where it exists in levels requiring action. More than a million pounds of the chemical, used to harden plastics, are released into the environment each year, the agency said.

The environmental agency also will require manufacturers that use BPA to provide test data to help evaluate effects on growth, reproduction and development in aquatic organisms and wildlife.

The action follows a Food and Drug Administration statement in January expressing concern about the human health risks of BPA, which the agency had declared safe in 2008. The agency said at the time that it would look into the potential effects of BPA on "the brain, behavior and prostate gland of fetuses, infants and children" and would join other federal agencies in studying the chemical in animals and humans.

Monday's announcement from the environmental agency indicated that the government is looking to reduce the use of BPA in food packaging, plastic bottles and other sources of exposure.

"We share FDA's concern about the potential health impacts from BPA," said Steve Owens of the environmental agency's Office of

Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

The moves by the two agencies are part of the Obama administration's effort to regulate health, food safety and environmental matters more forcefully.

But some consumer advocates said the administration was not moving quickly enough to assess the dangers of BPA and other industrial chemicals. This month, Sen. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., chided the environmental agency for not including BPA on a list of chemicals that would be more strictly regulated. Legislation is pending to ban or sharply curtail BPA's use in consumer products.

More than a million pounds of [bisphenol-A], used to harden plastics, are released into the environment each year, the agency said.

Concerns about BPA are based on studies that have found harmful effects in animals, on evidence that the chemical seeps into food and baby formula and that nearly everyone is exposed to it, starting in the womb.

Health officials have said there is no proof that BPA is harmful to humans, but are urging people to limit exposure by discarding scratched or worn containers made with it (usually marked with a 7 for recycling), not putting very hot liquids into cups or bottles with BPA and using microwave-safe containers.

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Alumni Empowerment Conference



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Bush Room 10-105

Contact Us:
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Many UA committee seats open for student advocates

UA Elections, from Page 1

the pair’s plan will be to hold UA Executive Board meetings in dorms.

Modi and Wyman plan to rotate UA executive meetings among dorms and the student center. “We hope that having exec meetings in dorms will have a big impact on the meeting’s focus: the way the meetings are run and the level of feedback,” he said.

Also “we want to make sure that any decisions we make are data driven — that’s something that’s a feature of MIT anyway,” Modi said.

Plans for freshman advising and online Add/Drop forms move forward

Among the projects proposed in their running platform, “improving freshman advising is what we’re the most excited about,” Modi said.

The pair hopes to implement a new, optional freshman advising system in which students are matched with a graduate student, faculty, or alumni who can give students more of a career guidance.

“In the current system, it’s really hard to achieve both someone who is both knowledgeable in advising classes and can provide a mentor-like role in the same person,” Wyman said. “Basically we want to improve functions for the advising program—having someone who serves sort of a mentorship role, helping

freshman acclimate to MIT life and helping them look forward to future career fields.”

“The Task Force planning report suggested a freshman advising center where there will be a lot of staff to advise students on classes, which we think is really good,” but “some staff members may be great with classes, but what they’ve been involved in since college might not be the

Among the projects proposed in their running platform, “improving freshman advising is what we’re the most excited about,” Modi said.

most relevant for advising students in career related tasks,” she said.

To get this project off the ground, Wyman said she has already spoken with the alumni association and Julie B. Norman, director of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming and senior associate dean of the Department of Undergraduate Education. Wyman plans to speak with Dean for Undergraduate Education Daniel E. Hastings PhD ’80 in the next couple of weeks to further develop this idea.

To move forward another major idea — putting the Add/Drop process online — Wyman said that she has already begun talking with the registrar’s office.

UA currently interviewing for committee positions

“We strongly encourage everyone to get involved with the UA,” Modi said. “There are a lot of things going on, a lot of rewarding projects that could shape the future of MIT.”

According to an e-mail sent out to undergraduates last Sunday, students can now apply to run for their dorm senate seats or positions as various committee chairs, as one of the major ways to become more involved.

“People who are part of a committee work on specific issues around campus, such as dining or education policy,” said Wyman.

According to Wyman, each committee has a chair and vice chair with positions, and these positions deal more broadly with different areas and can have a large role in advocacy. “It’s a way to choose issues that mean a lot to you,” she said.


In addition to running for a committee position, Wyman said that students can run for a senate seat in their dorm or give more feedback at the meetings in dorms.

For more information on executive and committee positions available, see <http://ua.mit.edu/exec/positions> and <http://ua.mit.edu/committees>.



MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER—THE TECH

Early on the morning of March 18th, a student fell from this roof hatch on the ninth floor of the Stata Center’s Dreyfoos Tower. The student lay immobilized for hours before being found by police around 8:30 a.m..



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March 16 – Romans 6:15-23

Week 3: **REVENGE OF THE SITH**
March 30 – Ephesians 4:17-25

Week 4: **STAR WARS: A NEW HOPE**
April 6 – Acts 2:14-36

Week 5: **THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK**
April 13 – Matthew 7:13-24

Week 6: **RETURN OF THE JEDI**
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Advice to prefrosh: Visit CPW, dorms

Prefrosh, students, alums share conversation and chowder

Prefrosh, from Page 1

ine all about MIT. From the nontraditional meal plan to hacking, to the unique dorm culture, to how much sleep MIT students get, we covered as much as we could.

Both Matthew and I agreed that Alex and Katherine will understand better once they spend experience Campus Preview Weekend, starting April 8.

Both Alex and Katherine said that they wanted to get involved in student activities. Katherine, who currently does ballet, was interested in the dancing groups at MIT. Alex said that he would be open to anything, possibly getting involved in a student organization involved in energy.

Although Alex and Katherine seemed excited about MIT, they also had concerns.

Katherine told us that she was interested in biochemistry, but was concerned that MIT did not have a

biochemistry major. I assured her that the classes offered in course 7 and course 5 would satisfy her needs.

Alex was concerned about the workload. He asked me if MIT students ever find time to go into Boston. I replied that students find it difficult to explore Boston during the weekdays, but most can find time on the weekends.

Before they make their final decision on which college to attend, both Alex and Katherine plan on coming to MIT for Campus Preview Weekend. Matthew emphasized the importance of visiting all the dorms and attending as many events as possible. He also told them that they should try not to sleep so much; just enough to get by the weekend.

Alex, who is currently deciding between MIT and Stanford, said that he had already looked at the CPW schedule, which currently consists of more than 700 events. He plans to

attend events during all times of the day, including a Vermonster Challenge starting at 3 a.m.

Dinner was served at 7 p.m. The clam chowder, garden salad, and chicken marsala were all delicious. As the apple crisp cake was being served, Professor Franz S. Hover of Mechanical Engineering set up his presentation about his work with autonomous underwater vehicles. Hover gave an example to the two

prospective freshmen of what kind of research they could be doing if they came to MIT.

Hover explained how the robot autonomously takes pictures of every square inch of a ship hull given a three-dimensional mesh model of the hull. Such a robot would ensure the safety of harbors by identifying illegal, alien objects that might be attached to ship hulls. The difficulty with doing this stems from the fact that it is difficult to maintain a high level of accuracy, making sure not to miss any surface on a ship's hull.

Hover said that the next steps in his research are to scan irregular objects like boat propellers and develop a visual recognition program that autonomously identifies malformations on ship hulls.

After the presentation, people began leaving one by one. With my throat dry and stomach full, I said my final goodbyes and reminded Alex and Katherine to come to MIT and enjoy CPW.

From the nontraditional meal plan to hacking, to the unique dorm culture, to how much sleep MIT students get, we covered as much as we could.

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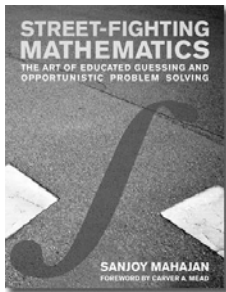
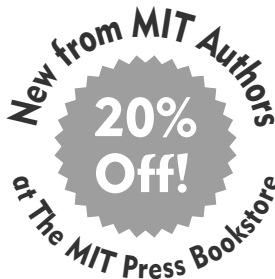
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Solution to Sudoku (Easy)

from page 9

5	1	2	4	8	6	9	7	3
6	7	9	2	3	1	5	4	8
8	4	3	5	9	7	2	6	1
2	3	5	7	1	8	4	9	6
7	9	1	3	6	4	8	2	5
4	6	8	9	5	2	3	1	7
1	5	7	8	2	9	6	3	4
3	2	6	1	4	5	7	8	9
9	8	4	6	7	3	1	5	2

Solution to Crossword

from page 9

B	R	A	C	E	T	A	R	P	S	E	A	R
I	O	W	A	N	I	C	A	L	L	I	L	E
P	L	A	S	T	I	C	S	T	A	Y	D	E
E	L	I	C	I	T	S	I	C	E	B	E	R
D	E	T	A	C	H	M	O	E	L	R	O	N
			D	E	A	N	A	S	P	E	D	
H	U	M	E	C	U	R	E	E	W	O	K	S
A	M	I	B	A	B	Y	S	I	T	W	I	T
M	A	L	T	A	S	A	S	S	N	A	P	
K	U	R	T	N	O	R	A	H				
C	A	S	T	E	O	N	A	M	A	N	D	A
S	C	H	U	L	T	Z	D	E	B	R	I	E
P	T	A	I	R	A	R	O	L	L	O	V	E
A	O	K	M	I	R	E	D	E	N	E	R	O
N	N	E	A	S	K	T	O	D	A	N	E	S

Solution to Sudoku (Hard)

from page 9

1	8	4	6	3	5	7	2	9
6	2	3	7	8	9	1	5	4
9	5	7	2	1	4	8	3	6
3	4	1	8	9	2	6	7	5
7	9	2	3	5	6	4	1	8
8	6	5	1	4	7	2	9	3
4	1	6	5	7	3	9	8	2
5	7	9	4	2	8	3	6	1
2	3	8	9	6	1	5	4	7



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MIT curling team sweeps its way to second regional title

Engineers defeat Harvard and Boston U.

By David Tax
TEAM MEMBER

Curling? That's right. That Olympic sport where people slide rocks on ice and sweep like madmen has arrived at MIT. In fact, MIT students have been curling for the almost three years, since the curling club was approved by the ASA.

For the second consecutive year, curlers from MIT competed in college curling bonspiels (curling tournament) on both a regional and national level. The first event was the Grand National Curling Club (GNCC) Regional Bonspiel held at Broomstones Curling Club in Wayland, MA on Feb. 20, where MIT looked to defend its championship title. The team comprised of skip David S. Tax G, vice Benjamin J. Peters '11, second Anthony G. Fowler G, and lead Dana B. Sulas '10 rolled over teams from Harvard and BU before meeting a tough team from Boston Architectural College in

the final. In the end, the BAC team was no match for MIT, who went on to a 6-3 victory and claimed their second consecutive GNCC regional college championship. A joint MIT/Harvard team, lead by skip Philip M. Nadeau G and vice Elizabeth K. Rosalia '13, also participated in the regional event. Their team went on to win the third event with a decisive win over BU, earning them a solid fifth place finish in the 12-team tournament.

The next event on the MIT curling schedule was the annual National College Curling Championship held at the Chicago Curling Club in Glenview, IL from March 12-14. MIT was represented by Tax, Peters, Sulas, and Jeffrey D. Mo G and was seeded as a Division I team. MIT improved on their 2009 result by handily defeating a team from Marquette University, 8-1, in only 6 ends. The following morning, MIT faced the 2008 national champion and 2009 runner-up

team from the University of Wisconsin. The MIT team battled hard against their talented opponents, but fell just short, losing a close 7-6 decision. Despite the loss, MIT would rebound in a big way that afternoon, closing out the round robin portion of the tournament with a 9-7 victory over a strong team from Lake Superior College. After that round, MIT, with a 2-1 record, was in a three-way tie for first in their pool with LSC and Wisconsin. Unfortunately, the tie-breaker went against MIT, and Tech did not make the playoff matchups; they watched as the LSC team they had defeated went on to compete for gold. Nevertheless, the MIT team was quite happy with their performance, and look forward to medal in next year's tournament.


The MIT curling club curls on most Friday afternoons from October to March at Broomstones Curling Club. The club's officers can be contacted at curling-owner@mit.edu.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball	
Saturday, 3/27	
at Wheaton College	L 9-0
at Wheaton College	L 7-4
Women's Lacrosse	
Saturday, 3/27	
at Springfield College	L 17-13
Softball	
Saturday, 3/27	
vs. Clark University	L 6-0
vs. Clark University	L 13-2
Men's Volleyball	
Saturday, 3/20	
vs. Mount Ida College	W 3-0
vs. Elms College	W 3-0

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, March 16		
Baseball vs. Brandeis University		3:30 p.m., Briggs Field
Men's tennis vs. Salem State College		4 p.m., duPont Courts



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SPORTS SHORTS

Wrestler wins nat'l championship

Grant M. Kadokura '11 won the 125 lb. National Collegiate Wrestling Association championship on March 13, the first national title in wrestling in Institute history. He defeated Frankie Miller from the University of Georgia.

Five other MIT wrestlers also competed in the tournament: Joseph B. Silverman '10 (197 lbs.), Bee Vang '13 (133 lbs.), Ryan J. Madson '13 (165 lbs.), Lucas C. Schiefelbein '13 (174 lbs.), and Brian G. Anderson '13 (197 lbs.).

— David Zhu

Baseball loses to Wheaton in NEWMAC opener

The MIT baseball team dropped both games of a doubleheader Saturday at Wheaton College. The Lyons posted a 9-0 shutout in game one and a 7-4 victory in the second contest.

In game one, only three Engineers had hits, and Torre Swanson '12 suffered his second loss of the spring, surrendering eight runs (seven earned) on 10 hits in five innings.

In the second game, Christopher L. Vaughan '12

gave up four earned runs on 10 hits in five innings for the loss.

The Engineers return home for their next game against Brandeis University on Tuesday, March 30 at 3:30 p.m.

— Paul Blascovich, DAPER Staff

Softball swept by Clark in doubleheader

The MIT softball team was swept in a doubleheader of games to Clark University, 6-0 and 13-2, Saturday afternoon. It was the NEWMAC opener for the Engineers, who drop to 4-8 overall.

In game one, Clark broke things open with a five-run third and kept MIT at bay, allowing just five base runners all game. Jenny Li '11 hit a one-out triple to deep center in the third inning, but was stranded on base.

Jessica L. Iacobucci '12 took the loss for the Engineers, allowing six runs on seven hits while striking out 10.

In the second game, the Clark bats came alive early, pushing across one run in the first and then tagging MIT starter Trinity Leonard for seven runs in the next two innings. A pair of Tech errors led to three Clark runs in the second, and a bases-loaded triple plus a throwing error gave Clark four more runs in the third. The Cougars would add five more runs in the fifth to win the shortened game, 13-2.

The Engineers will look to bounce back next Friday, April 2 when they host Wellesley for a NEWMAC doubleheader.

— Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff



He is not here; he has risen.

HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, March 31
Agape Meal with footwashing
Main Dining Room W11, 5:15pm

Friday, April 2
Solemn Good Friday Service
MIT Chapel, 12 noon

Sunday, April 4
Easter Vigil Celebration and Breakfast
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